Date 4 JAN 91   HRP 89-2   Date 4 JAN 91   4 Nov 49

ESSENCE OF THE SR PROBLEM   HRP 89-2

1.   There was, is, and for some time will continue to be a need for intelligence

studies of the type represented by the SR's. For this reason, ~~these~~ such studies should

have been and should continue to be written.

2.   ORE was not the agency that should have been called upon to write such in-

telligence studies. ORE, over its dead body, however, was committed to the pro-

duction of SR's, has produced a good many, has several more in various stages of

production, and several others planned. Whereas it might have been simple, and

would have been advisable to turn the project over to a more appropriate agency

a few years oxzaxxn back, it would be difficult now and probably not feasible.

3.   The complaint about conflict with the NIS has been brought up continually, but

it carries no weight because (a) completion of the NIS is in the misty future,

and (b) the SR and NIS serve quite different purposes. Even when the NIS is com-

pleted, either actual SR's or/digests of the NIS (which will be much the same
                        up-to-date

thing as SR's) will have to be produced.

4.   Meanwhile, (a) the contention that the SR's have done and for some ti e will con-

tinue to do a lot of good is susceptible to proof; (b) if you were suddenly to

abandon the program, you would hear loud complaints; (c) many Branch Chiefs,

originally violent oponents of the whole program, have become converted to it

because they think it serves a purpose in itself, helps train analysts, and

serves to put branch files and thinking in order; and (d) abandonment of most

SR's now in process would represent considerable waste.

25X1A